(e) The Super Bazar has informed that they are computerising their accounts and purchases to tone up the work in this regard.

National Grain Council and National Sugar Pricing Board

563. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up a National Grain Council and a National Sugar Pricing Board;

(b) if so, the constitution, functions and objectives thereof, and

(c) the time by which these bodies are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The National workshop on "Quality Control & Grading System of Foodgrains in India" held on 30.10.1996 at New Delhi recommended, inter alia, establishment of a National Foodgrain Council. Govt has not taken a decision thereon.

There is no proposal to set up a National Sugar Pricing Board.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Highway Robberies and Other Crimes

564. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received reports regarding the highway robberies, steeling of vehicles and crossing over of the goods to the neighbouring countries;

(b) whether the Government have been urged to set up a cell to deal with such crimes, and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the concern of the State Governments. However, on issues relating to cross-border crime the Central Government also interacts with the neighbouring countries.

Cases Handled by CBI

565. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases CBI handled during the last two years, crime-wise;

(b) the number and details out of thee cases where charge-sheets are yet to be filed; and

(c) the reasons for delay in filing the charge-sheets case-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

566. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of compensation courts functioning in Bhopal for disposing of cases of Bhopal Gas Tragedy;

(b) whether the number of courts have decreased in comparison to earlier; and

(c) the time by which a separate court for each of the 66 wards of the Bhopal city is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS : (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, at present 37 courts are functioning. Office of the Welfare Commissioner has informed that setting up of additional courts is depending upon the availability of judicial officers from the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) As the work of disposal of claim cases has been completed in some wards, the Presiding Officers from those courts could also be allocated the work relating to other wards where the courts may not have been set up.

[English]

Environmental Tribunal

567. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up Environmental Tribunal soon;

(b) if so, the main objectives of setting up of such a Tribunal; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 has been enacted to provide for strict liability for damages arising out of any accident occurring while handling any hazardous substance and for the establishment of a National Environment Tribunal for effective and expeditious disposal of cases arising from